

REMARKS

The Office action rejects claims 1-13 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,302,471 (Ito et al.) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0081870 (Miyazawa et al.).

The Office action's rejection is improper because the Miyazawa et al. reference is not prior art. The PCT application that corresponds to the Miyazawa et al. reference was not filed until October 25, 2002. The present application claims priority to Japanese patent application JP 2002-271633 which was filed on September 18, 2002. Applicants have previously provided a certified translation of the priority document. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are patentable over the cited art.

Conclusion

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper.

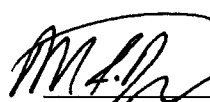
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Respectfully submitted,

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